

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. The status of each claim is. Currently amended claims are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~striketrough~~. No new matter is added by this amendment.

1. (Currently Amended) A medical device adapted for insertion into a body of a patient for maintaining a passageway therein, the device comprising:

a first hollow member having a proximal end, a distal end, and defining a lumen therethrough and a longitudinal axis, at least a portion of the proximal end configured to remain outside of the body;

a second hollow member having a proximal end and a distal end and being disposable within the lumen of the first hollow member for slidable movement along the longitudinal axis of the first hollow member, the second hollow member defining a lumen sized to receive a medical instrument therethrough; and

a wedge disposable within the lumen of the first hollow member, the wedge slides for ~~slidable movement therethrough~~ between positions including a first position in which the wedge is disposed entirely within the lumen of the first hollow member and is spaced from the second hollow member and a second position in which the wedge is disposed entirely within the lumen of the first hollow member and contacts the first hollow member and second hollow member to wedge the members together to inhibit relative axial movement of the two members.

2. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member comprises a cylinder.

3. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member is comprised of a semi-rigid material.

4. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member is comprised of a material selected from the group including polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP), polyethylene, plastics, and combinations thereof.
5. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the first hollow member defines an inner diameter, the second hollow member defines an outer diameter, the inner diameter of the first hollow member being greater than the outer diameter of the second hollow member.
6. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the medical instrument is a catheter.
7. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the first hollow member includes a beveled edge adapted to facilitate insertion into the body.
8. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the second hollow member defines an end face, the end face being adapted to facilitate insertion into the body.
9. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 8, wherein the end face defined by the distal end of the second hollow member defines a plane non-orthogonal to a longitudinal axis defined by the second hollow member.
10. (Original) The medical device of claim 8, wherein the end face includes a chamfered edge adapted to facilitate manipulation within the body.
- 11.-16. (Canceled)
17. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein an interior surface of the distal end of the first hollow member overlaps and is in frictional communication with a portion of an exterior surface of the proximal end of the second hollow member.

18. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the second hollow member defines a slot that extends axially along the second hollow member, thereby enabling a radial deformation of the proximal end of the second hollow member.

19. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein an elastomeric member is disposed between the distal end of the first hollow member and the proximal end of the second hollow member, the elastomeric member being in frictional communication with both the distal end of the first hollow member and the proximal end of the second hollow member.

20. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a radiopaque marking adapted to facilitate positioning of the medical device at a predetermined location within the body.

21. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a marking upon at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member, the marking being adapted to facilitate adjustment of a combined length of the first hollow member and the second hollow member.

22. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a fastener at the proximal end of the first hollow member adapted for securing a guide wire device.

23. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 22, further comprising a retaining slot providing an interference fit for securing the guide wire device.

24.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the first hollow member is in substantially fluid tight communication with the second hollow member.

28. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a washer adapted for maintaining a substantially fluid-tight seal between the first hollow member and the second hollow member.

29. (Currently Amended) A medical device adapted for insertion into a body of a patient for maintaining a passageway therein, the device comprising:

a first hollow member for providing at least a portion of an unobstructed passageway from outside of the patient's body to the inside of the patient's body when inserted therein, the first hollow member having a sidewall defining a groove, the groove having a longitudinal portion and at least three~~a plurality of~~ notches; and

a second hollow member in adjustable communication with the first hollow member for extending the unobstructed passageway provided in part by the first hollow member to a predetermined internal location beyond a distal end of the first hollow member, the second hollow member having a post configured to be disposed within the groove of the first hollow member, the post being configured to be movable between the longitudinal portion of the groove and the at least three~~a plurality of~~ notches of the groove, the post being configured to be slidable along the longitudinal portion of the groove when the second hollow member is adjusted with respect to the first hollow member.

30.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 29, wherein one end of the first hollow member is in slidable communication with one end of the second hollow member for adjusting an overall length of the combined first hollow member and second hollow member.

33. (Original) The medical device of claim 29, wherein the first hollow member has a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end comprising a flange for attaching medical instruments thereto.

34. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein a combined length of the first hollow member and the second hollow member is longer than a length of the first hollow member when the wedge is in its second position.

35-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 29, wherein the second hollow member does not move with respect to the first hollow member along the longitudinal axis defined by the first hollow member when the post is disposed within one of the plurality of notches of the groove.

38. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 29, wherein at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member is sized to accept a medical instrument.

39. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 29, wherein each notch of the plurality of notches defines an axis non-parallel to the longitudinal axis defined by the first hollow member.

40. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 29, wherein the second hollow member is in a locked position with respect to the first hollow member when the post is disposed within one of the plurality of notches of the groove.

41. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 29, wherein a distal end of the second hollow member defines an end face, the end face defining a plane non-orthogonal to a longitudinal axis defined by the second hollow member.

42. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 29, further comprising a radiopaque marking adapted to facilitate positioning of the medical device at a predetermined location within the body.

43. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 29, further comprising a marking upon at least one of the first hollow member and the second hollow member, the marking being adapted to facilitate adjustment of a combined length of the first hollow member and the second hollow member.

44. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 29, further comprising a fastener at a proximal end portion of the first hollow member, the fastener adapted for securing a guide wire device.

45. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 44, further comprising a retaining slot providing an interference fit for securing the guide wire device.

46. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the second hollow member has a first position with respect to the first hollow member and a second position with respect to the first hollow member, the second hollow member being configured to move between the first position and the second position when the wedge is in its first position.

47. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the distal end of second hollow member is disposed apart from the first hollow member when the wedge is in the second position.

48. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the second hollow member extends distally from the distal end of the first hollow member when the wedge is in its second position.

49. (New) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the wedge is formed by an injection molding technique.